

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1996.
 Donna P. Taylor,
Manager, Passenger Facility Charge Branch.
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Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. RSAC-96-1, Notice No. 2]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC") Meeting.

SUMMARY: As required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), and 41 CFR 101-6.1015(b), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) gives notice of a meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC"). The purpose of the meeting is threefold: (1) to task the RSAC with the revision of 49 CFR Part 230, Locomotive Inspection for Steam Powered Locomotives; (2) to receive progress reports from existing working groups; and (3) to engage in exploratory discussions regarding several issues that may be tasked to the RSAC in the future.

DATES: The meeting of the RSAC is scheduled to commence at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 24th and to conclude at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25th.

ADDRESSES: The meeting of the RSAC will be held at Loew's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, S.W., Washington, D.C. The meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Sign language interpreters will be available for individuals with hearing impediments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vicky McCully, FRA, 400 7th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 366-6569, Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development, FRA, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202)-366-0897, or Lisa Levine, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202)-366-0621.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), FRA is giving notice of a meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC"). The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on both Wednesday, July 24, 1996 and Thursday, July 25, 1996 and will be held at the Loew's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel,

S.W., Washington D.C. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time.

RSAC was established to provide advice and recommendations to the FRA on railroad safety matters. The Committee consists of 48 individual representatives, drawn from among 27 organizations representing various rail industry perspectives, and 2 associate non-voting representatives from the agencies with railroad safety regulatory responsibility in Canada and Mexico.

During this meeting, the RSAC will receive progress reports from all working groups currently operational, specifically those working groups concerned with—

- Revision of the power brake regulations applicable to freight service and related topics (see 49 CFR Parts 215, 229, 232);
- Revision of the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213);
- Revision of the Radio Standards and Procedures (49 CFR Part 220) and development of additional standards related to railroad communications; and
- Review of existing and proposed regulations to determine appropriate applicability to tourist and historic railroads and examination of FRA's policy with respect to exercise of jurisdiction over railroads off the general system of rail transportation.

The Committee will also consider a proposed task regarding examination and possible revision of existing steam locomotive inspection standards (see 49 CFR Part 230). In addition, the agency will engage in exploratory discussion with the RSAC regarding the following issues, which may be tasked to the RSAC in the future:

- (1) Accident survivability standards for locomotive event recorder data (see 49 CFR § 229.135) (may be proposed for tasking at this meeting);
- (2) Review of locomotive engineer certification standards (49 CFR Part 240); and
- (3) Blue signal protection vis-a-vis single engineers working alone and contractors (49 CFR Part 218).

FRA will brief the RSAC regarding recent developments in the regulatory program, including plans for revision of the accident/incident reporting guide following amendments to 49 CFR Part 225 published on June 18, 1996 (61 FR 30940). Please refer to the notice published in the Federal Register on March 11, 1996 (61 F.R. 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Philip Olekszyk,
Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.
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Maritime Administration

[Docket S-938]

Farrell Lines Incorporated; Notice of Application for Waiver of Section 804(a) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, As Amended

Farrell Lines Incorporated (Farrell), by application dated June 27, 1996, requests a waiver of the provisions of section 804(a) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, so as to permit Farrell to charter and operate a foreign-flag vessel for a one-way U.S. east coast to Mediterranean voyage commencing in early August 1996 in place of the ARGONAUT, one of the vessels assigned regularly to that trade, which is being drydocked in the United States from August 7 to August 31, 1996.

Farrell agrees to carry on the foreign-flag voyage not more than the capacity (1,070 TEUs) of the ships it currently operates in the Mediterranean trade. The United States and foreign ports of call are: New York, Norfolk, Charleston, Cadiz, Livorno, Naples, Haifa, Alexandria, Izmir, and Piraeus.

Further, Farrell states that the substitute vessel is needed to: (1) Support its existing American-flag service and maintain its operating schedule integrity; (2) meet the service requirements of customers; (3) attract cargo which would otherwise move on foreign-flag vessels; and (4) generate revenues during the absence of the ARGONAUT.

Farrell believes, as demonstrated above, there are special circumstances and good cause for it to use a foreign-flag vessel in support of its U.S.-flag service, and that there will be no detrimental effect on the operations of any other operator.

This application may be inspected in the Office of the Secretary, Maritime Administration. Any person, firm, or corporation having any interest in such request within the meaning of section 804 of the Act and desiring to submit comments concerning the application must file written comments in triplicate with the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 1996. This notice is published as a matter of discretion and publication should in no way be considered a favorable or unfavorable decision on the application, as filed or as may be amended. The Maritime Administrator will consider any comments submitted and take such action with respect thereto as may be deemed appropriate.